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TAGS: PEPR SHUM VE US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ SPEAKS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE THIRD WORLD

SUMMARY: USING A HUMAN RIGHTS SEMINAR AS HIS PLATFORM
JULY 31, 1978 PRESIDENT PEREZ IN WIDE-RANGING SPEECH REITERATED
VENEZUELAN FOREIGN POLICY AIMS, THE NIEO, LATIN INTEGRATION
AND DEMOCRACY-HUMAN RIGHTS. PUBLICITY HERE CENTERED ON
PEREZ' REITERATION OF VENEZUELA'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY WITH
PRESIDENT CALLING FOR PALESTINIAN HOMELAND AND ASKING
ISRAEL TO COMPLY WITH UN RESOLUTIONS AND TO WITHDRAW FROM
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE SPEECH WAS LARDED WITH THIRD
WORLD RHETORIC, WITH PRESIDENT GOING AFTER POLITICAL BLOCS,
TRANSNATIONALS WHICH ABET VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
MANIPULATION OF INFORMATION BY FOREIGN MEDIA, AND "CYNICISM"
OF NEUTRON BOMB. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, PEREZ REEMPHASIZED
VENEZUELAN SUPPORT FOR COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE FOR CREATION
OF A UN HUMAN RIGHTS HIGH COMMISSIONER, AND ROUNDLY
CONDEMNED AUTHORITARIANISM OF ANY STRIPE. CLEARLY PEREZ
FELT CONSTRAINED TO PLAY UP VENEZUELA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE ON
HUMAN RIGHTS. NEITHER HE NOR ANY OTHER SPEAKERS MADE ANY
MENTION AT ALL OF US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. OFFERING NOTHING
NEW, SPEECH WAS VINTAGE PEREZ WITH ALL THE THIRD WORLD
STOPS PULLED OUT. END SUMMARY.

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1. HUMAN RIGHTS -MORE THAN POLITICS.
PEREZ EXPLAINED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVE SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("BREAD WITH FREEDOM," HE SAID)
AS WELL AS EXERCISE OF TRADITIONAL POLITICAL FREEDOMS,
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO LIVE BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND NATIONALY
WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. HE DEPLORED FACT THAT 1948

UN DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS HONORED MORE IN THE BREECH THAN IN PRACTICE. HE SAID THAT VENEZUELA MAKES NO DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES, WHETHER PROGRESSIVE OR REACTIONARY, BUT DEPLORES THEM ALL.

2. FOREIGN POLICY.

ON FOREIGN POLICY TOPICS, PEREZ NOTED THAT IN "THE MIDDLE EAST, FOLLOWING THE IMPRESSIVE, ADMIRABLE AND COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT SADAT, THE COOPERATION OF THE MOST RESPONSIBLE NATIONS IN THIS (SIC) CONFLICT WHICH COMPROMISES WORLD PEACE, HAS NOT BROUGHT ABOUT THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS WHICH ASSURE THE ISRAELI NATION ITS RIGHT TO EXIST, FREE OF THREATS AND AMBUSHES; REQUIRING AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT (ISRAEL) WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY FROM THE INVADDED AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THAT THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO A NATIONAL HOME BE RESPECTED." ON THE ARMS RACE, PEREZ SAID THAT DESPOTIC GOVERNMENTS ARE MAINTAINED IN POWER BY MODERN ARMIES TO DEFEND THE INTERESTS OF TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS WHICH EXPLOIT THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE THIRD WORLD. BOTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA, HE CONTINUED, "WE CONFRONT THE CONSTANT SIEGE OF GIANT TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, DILIGENT IN INVESTING WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE DENIED. THERE IS A WORRISOME RELATION BETWEEN FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND THE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS." ON SOUTH AFRICA, PEREZ NOTED THAT THIS "MOST ABOMINABLE
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CENTER OF RACIST POWER" IS PROTECTED BY MODERN ARMS AS ARE OTHER CORRUPT GOVERNMENTS. TURNING TO THE ARMS RACE DIRECTLY, PEREZ SAID THAT \$400 BILLION IS SPENT ANNUALLY AND THEN SAID THAT THE SITUATION HAS REACHED THE "INCREDIBLE CYNICISM OF DISCUSSING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOMB THAT ONLY KILLS PEOPLE (NEUTRON BOMB)." ON FOREIGN MEDIA, PEREZ SAID THAT THE BELIEF EXISTS THAT THE THIRD WORLD IS MISTREATED AND DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY THE LARGE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AND NOTED UNESCO IS DISCUSSING THIS VERY ISSUE.

3. PEREZ' CHECKLIST.

STRESSING THAT HE IS VERY THE OPTIMIST, PEREZ THEN ADMITTED ALL THIS OFFERS A SOMBER PERSPECTIVE INDEED. MILITATING AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS, HE LISTED THE FOLLOWING: BLOCS INTO WHICH THE WORLD IS DIVIDED, ECONOMIC VIOLENCE, ABSURD ARMS RACE, TERRORISM, ARMED CONFLICT IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, DICTATORSHIPS WHICH REPRESS MANY PEOPLES IN LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE, THE BARBARIC PRACTICE OF TORTURE, AND THE PHYSICAL LIQUIDATION OF PEOPLE FOR THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS. HE CONCLUDED, "WE THINK THE MOMENT HAS COME TO DECLARE TORTURE AN INTERNATIONAL

CRIME, LIKE GENOCIDE."

4. VENEZUELA'S FUNDAMENTAL FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

VENEZUELA HAS THREE FUNDAMENTAL FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES SAID THE PRESIDENT. FIRST, SOLIDARITY IN THE FIGHT TO ESTABLISH THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. SECOND, THE FIRM DECISION TO WORK FOR LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION. THIRD, PROMOTION AND DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ADDED THAT WHILE IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM IS A FACT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES AND OF THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO HAVE THE GOVERNMENTS THEY WANT, VENEZUELA WILL NOT BE INHIBITED IN SPEAKING OUT TO DENOUNCE THE DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO DEMAND, THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT HUMAN RIGHTS BE RESPECTED BY GOVERNMENTS. PEREZ THEN NOTED THAT VENEZUELA HAS FIRMLY SUPPORTED THE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BOTH FINANCIALLY AND POLITICALLY, AND THAT VENEZUELA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE COSTA RICAN PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ALSO SAID THAT VENEZUELA HAS RATIFIED VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION.

5. COMMENT. THE SPEECH IS QUINTESSENTIAL THRU WORLD RHETORIC, BUT BROKE NO NEW GROUND. EVEN PEREZ' DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, WHILE PROBABLY NOT PLEASING TO THE ISRAELIS, IS VIRTUAL REITERATION OF THE VENEZUELAN POSITION HE SPELLED OUT DURING HIS 1976 MIDDLE EAST TRIP. PEREZ' FAILURE TO MAKE EVEN PASSING REFERENCE TO THE ROLE OF US INFURTHERING HUMAN RIGHTS NO DOUBT REFLECTS FACT THAT VENEZUELA IS IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND THAT SPEECH WAS TAILORED FOR A VENEZUELAN AUDIENCE. CROWLEY

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